

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) Process for producing a low volatility metal flake pigment composition, which comprises mechanical milling of metal powder in a milling fluid in the substantial absence of water and hydrocarbon solvents, wherein the milling fluid is both solvent and water miscible and comprises a non-aqueous, non-hydrocarbon fluid that is both solvent and water miscible, selected from ethers, ketonic species, heteroatom-containing compounds and lower mono and dialkyl ethers, esters and mixed ether esters of mono-, di- and tri- ethylene and propylene glycols.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) Process according to claim 1, which further comprises the addition of one or more substances that act as a lubricant and/or corrosion inhibitor.
4. (Original) Process according to claim 1, which further comprises the step of removing oversize or undersize particles after milling.
5. (Original) Process according to claim 1, which further comprises concentrating after milling to a metal flake pigment paste of 50-90% metal by weight.
6. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 5, wherein the paste is converted to a granule form.
- 7.-9. (Canceled).
10. (Original) Process according to claim 1, which further comprises a step of treating the milled metal flakes in the milling fluid.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Processing~~Process according to claim 10, wherein the metal flakes are treated with a phosphate, silica, ~~[[or]]~~ alumina, ammonium dichromate, or ammonium or potassium permanganate.

12. (Original) Process according to claim 1, wherein the metal flakes are thermally treated after the milling step.

13. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein the milling fluid is selected from the group consisting of gamma butyrolactone, 2-pyrrolidone, N-methylpyrrolidone, isophorone, triacetin, 2,5-hexanedione, tetraethylene pentamine, triethyl phosphate, ethyl acetoacetate, n-methyl formamide, propylene carbonate, ethylene glycol monobutyl ether, diethylene glycol monomethyl, monoethyl, monopropyl and monobutyl ethers, triethylene glycol monomethyl, monoethyl, monopropyl and monobutyl ethers, diethylene glycol dimethyl, diethyl, dipropyl and dibutyl ethers, triethylene glycol dimethyl, diethyl, dipropyl and dibutyl ethers, propylene glycol monobutyl ether, dipropylene glycol monomethyl, monoethyl, monopropyl and monobutyl ethers, tripropylene glycol monomethyl, monoethyl, monopropyl and monobutyl ethers, dipropylene glycol dimethyl, diethyl, dipropyl and dibutyl ethers, tripropylene glycol dimethyl, diethyl, dipropyl and dibutyl ethers, diamyl ether, methoxypropyl acetate, ethylene glycol monobutyl ether acetate, diethylene glycol monomethyl ether acetate, diethylene glycol monoethyl ether acetate, diethylene glycol monobutyl ether acetate, dipropylene glycol monomethyl ether acetate, propylene glycol diacetate, methyl, ethyl and propyl lactate, monomethyl, monoethyl, dimethyl and diethyl esters of succinic, glutaric and adipic acids, or a mixture of any two or more of these.

14. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 13, wherein the milling fluid is selected from the group consisting of propylene carbonate, tripropylene glycol monomethyl

ether, dipropylene glycol dimethyl ether or dipropylene glycol n-propyl ether, diethylene glycol monomethyl ether acetate, diethylene glycol monobutyl ether acetate, or mixtures of dimethyl esters of adipic, glutaric and succinic acids.

15.-16. (Canceled).

17. (Original) Process according to claim 1, wherein the metal is aluminium, zinc, copper, tin, nickel, silver, gold, iron, or an alloy thereof.

18. (Original) Process according to claim 17, wherein the metal is aluminium or gold bronze.

19. (Original) Process according to claim 1, wherein the metal pigment particles have a median diameter of 6 μm to 600 μm .

20. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 19, wherein the metal pigment particles have a median diameter of 10 μm to 300 μm .

21. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 3, wherein the corrosion inhibitor is calcium phosphate, magnesium phosphate, calcium phosphosilicate, calcium strontium phosphosilicate, aluminium zirconium zinc phosphosilicate, calcium strontium zinc phosphosilicate, alkyl and dialkyl phosphates, phosphites and their derivatives, phosphonic acid derivatives, phosphate esters of long chain ethoxylated alcohols, organic silanes or silicates, compounds of molybdenum, vanadium, titanium, zirconium, and tungsten and heteropolyanionic compounds thereof, ammonium dichromate or chromic acid.

22. (Original) Process according to claim 3, wherein the lubricant is a long chain or polymeric fatty acid, a phosphate ester of a long chain ethoxylated alcohol, lauryl phosphonic acid, lauryl phosphate or a mineral oil.

23. (Original) Process according to claim 1, comprising ball milling the metal powder.

24. (Canceled).
25. (Original) A metal pigment paste obtainable by the process of claim 1.
26. (Original) A granule obtainable by the process of claim 6.
27. (Original) A granule produced by the process of claim 6.
28. (Currently Amended) An ink or surface coating comprising ~~the~~ a metal pigment paste or granules produced by a process according to claim ~~1~~ 5 and surface coating binders, dissolved or dispersed in water, solvent or mixtures of the two.
29. (Original) Article obtainable by shaping a composition comprising granules produced by the process of claim 6.
30. (Original) Article obtainable by injection moulding or by extrusion of a thermoplastic, comprising granules produced by the process of claim 6.
31. (Original) Shaped article comprising a thermoplastic or thermosetting polymer and granules produced by the process of claim 6.
32. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the milling fluid is a low volatility milling fluid.
33. (New) Process according to claim 1, wherein the metal is aluminum, zinc, copper, tin, nickel, silver, gold or an alloy thereof.
34. (New) An ink or surface coating comprising granules produced by a process according to claim 6 and surface coating binders, dissolved or dispersed in water, solvent or mixtures of the two.